

CITY OF NEWARK
Newark, Delaware

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE MEETING
September 15, 2009
5:00 p.m.

Members Present: Chief Paul Tiernan, Lt. George Stanko, Carol Houck, Marvin Howard, Dave Gula, Tom Parkins

Absent: Rich Lapointe

Guests: Darryl Hodge, Newark Resident

1. REQUEST FOR A STOP SIGN AT RAHWAY DRIVE AND CASHO MILL ROAD

Mr. Darryl Hodge said he lives on the corner of Rahway Drive and Casho Mill Road. Mr. Hodge has four young children and is concerned for their safety with the speeding on Casho Mill Road. Mr. Hodge said a friend informed him that in years past a speeding car crashed into their house. Mr. Hodge said the police department has conducted speed enforcement on Casho Mill Road unfortunately this is only a temporary fix to the speeding issue. Mr. Hodge anticipates when his children get older they will be crossing the road to access the Nottingham Green pool. Mr. Hodge feels that if a stop sign were to be installed on Casho Mill Road at Rahway Drive it would slow traffic down.

Lt. Stanko said stop signs are not used as a safe and effective way to control speed. By installing a stop sign, this creates stop sign violations and ultimately does not solve the problem. Lt. Stanko said the police department is aware of the speeding on Casho Mill Road, and have used the electronic speed limit signs and have conducted speed enforcement heavily in the past. However, at this time traffic officers are working evenings and are unable to conduct enforcement. Dave Gula agrees that a stop sign can be more dangerous.

Dave Gula said once traffic calming solutions are decided for Country Club Drive, there is a possibility that some of the same solutions could be implemented on Casho Mill Road. Carol Houck inquired as to the status of traffic calming for Country Club Drive. Dave Gula said that traffic counts are needed. Lt. Stanko said with traffic officers working evenings they have been unable to obtain the traffic counts. Dave Gula said the next meeting was scheduled for September 24, 2009, however this date may get pushed back.

MOTION BY CAROL HOUCK, SECONDED BY LT. GEORGE STANKO TO DENY THE REQUEST FOR A STOP SIGN ON CASHO MILL ROAD AT RAHWAY DRIVE.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 6 TO 0.

2. DISCUSS POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS SPEEDING ON MADISON DRIVE

Chief Tiernan said Councilmember Dave Athey and Councilmember Doug Tuttle requested this item be removed.

Old Business:

S. College Avenue Pedestrian Bridge – Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) Response Letter

A response letter was received from DelDOT dated July 23, 2009 in response to the Traffic Committee's letter.

In summary, the Traffic Committee's letter to DelDOT recommended widening the bicycle lane to 5' which would narrow the travel lane to 11' on the S. College Avenue bridge in order to make it safer for bicyclists. The letter also indicated signs were removed that prohibited bicyclists on the bridge and installed signs that read, "Bicyclists Must Yield to Pedestrians".

In DelDOT's response letter, the first item addressed was the sign removal and replacement. DelDOT indicated that prior consent must be granted before removing their signs and that authorization was not given to do so. Secondly, DelDOT approved of the widening of the bicycle lane to 5' and narrowing the travel lane to 11'. DelDOT estimated the cost of the work to be approximately \$5,456, and that funds are not available in their FY10 budget. If the City of Newark does decide to proceed, a funding source would need to be identified.

In response to DelDOT's letter, Chief Tiernan said it is believed that the signs removed prohibiting bicyclists on the bridge, were purchased by the police department in the late 1980's early 1990's when William Nefosky was a Captain. M/Cpl. Davis is currently researching this issue.

Carol Houck suggested contacting DelDOT to request approval for the City to perform the striping on the bridge. Chief Tiernan asked Lt. Stanko to contact DelDOT.

There being no further business, Chief Tiernan called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION BY DAVE GULA, SECONDED BY LT. GEORGE STANKO, TO ADJOURN.

MOTION PASSED. VOTE: 6 TO 0.

Paul M. Tiernan, Chairman